

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 4/6/2012 5:24:35 PM
To: amaykuth@phillynews.com
CC: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Re: FW: EPA Update on latest water sampling data from Dimock, Pa.

Andy -- I hope this helps you out.

Your note says the sampling did not show levels of contaminants that would give EPA reason to take immediate action. Does that mean the water you tested is safe? Or does that mean there are no grounds under the Superfund law for EPA to take action?

Answer: EPA found no levels that present a health concern based on risk assessments performed by EPA toxicologists. In performing risk assessments, the toxicologists consider chronic (long term) as well as acute (ie. immediate) conditions.

I see some highlighted levels of contaminants like lithium, chromium, arsenic, sodium and coliform. Are those a concern?

Answer: The levels were highlighted because they were above the trigger level. These levels were reviewed by our toxicologists who conducted a risk assessment and determined that they would not pose a health concern.

Regarding lithium, there are no homes that we sampled in the first two sets of results with lithium results that would present an acute health threat. According to ATSDR, levels that may present an acute health threat would be above 1,500 ug/L. Therefore, we have determined that there is no basis for additional action at this time. As new data becomes available, EPA will continue to review it and make decisions on any appropriate response based on science and the law.

Regarding arsenic, EPA will re-sample at one of the 20 wells because the arsenic level was below the MCL, but above our trigger level.

Regarding sodium:

* One of the 20 wells sampled had levels of sodium above EPA's recommended concentration of sodium in drinking water of between 30,000 and 60,000 micrograms per cubic liter (ug/l). At this well, the residents are currently receiving alternate sources of drinking water from Cabot.

* Eight of the 20 wells sampled had levels of sodium above EPA's guidance of 20,000 ug/l for individuals with a restricted sodium intake of 500 mg/day.

EPA's Drinking Water Advisory for sodium recommends reducing sodium concentrations in drinking water to between 30,000 and 60,000 ug/l based on esthetic effects such as taste. Drinking water containing between 30,000 and 60,000 ug/l is unlikely to be perceived as salty by most individuals and would contribute only 2.5% to 5% of the dietary goal if tap water consumption is 2 L/day. This recommendation is not federally enforceable but is intended as a guideline for states. States may establish higher or lower levels depending on local conditions, such as unavailability of alternate source waters or other compelling factors, provided that public health and welfare are not adversely affected.

EPA also has a 20,000 ug/l guideline that is currently used as a health-based guide for individuals whose dietary intake of sodium is severely restricted at a level of 500 mg of sodium from all dietary sources daily. In this scenario, an individual could drink 2 liters of water each day, and consume only 40 mg of sodium from that water - only a small portion of their total intake, even at 500 mg daily. This guidance is not a regulatory standard and does not apply to the general population.

Regarding chromium and coliform, the levels identified were above our trigger level, and reviewed by our

toxicologists who conducted a risk assessment and determined that the levels were below a level that would cause a health concern.

The first round of tests included three of four houses that were getting water deliveries from the EPA. Is the fourth house included in the latest data?

Answer: No, the fourth house is not in this group of 20.

Following the first round of tests the EPA released, the agency said it would wait for another round to decide whether it will continue to deliver water to residents. Has a decision been made on that?

Answer: EPA will be taking a second round of sampling at these three homes before making a decision about continuing sampling.

Is there any idea on when the remaining tests will be done?

Answer: We will continue to share the data on a rolling basis with residents over the next several weeks.

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
seneca.roy@epa.gov
(215) 814-5567

[REDACTED]
To: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/06/2012 04:15 PM
Subject: FW: EPA Update on latest water sampling data from Dimock, Pa.

Mr. Seneca:

Your note says the sampling did not show levels of contaminants that would give EPA reason to take immediate action. Does that mean the water you tested is safe? Or does that mean there are no grounds under the Superfund law for EPA to take action?

I see some highlighted levels of contaminants like lithium, chromium, arsenic, sodium and coliform. Are those a concern?

The first round of tests included three of four houses that were getting water deliveries from the EPA. Is the fourth house included in the latest data?

Following the first round of tests the EPA released, the agency said it would wait for another round to decide whether it will continue to deliver water to residents. Has a decision been made on that?

Is there any idea on when the remaining tests will be done?

Also, can you include me on the e-mail list for any further news on this subject? Thanks.

Andrew Maykuth | Business News Writer
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
From: Roy Seneca [mailto:Seneca.Roy@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Fri 4/6/2012 12:33 PM
Cc: Terri-A White
Subject: Update on latest water sampling data from Dimock, Pa.

EPA has completed and shared with residents and Pennsylvania state officials the second set of sampling at 20 private drinking water wells in Dimock, Pa. This set of sampling did not show levels of contaminants that would give EPA reason to take immediate action. EPA remains committed to providing Dimock residents with the best available data and information on the quality of drinking water as expeditiously as possible.

For more information on the sampling results, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/states/pa.html>

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
seneca.roy@epa.gov
(215) 814-5567